

**Social Service Human Relations Board**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 26, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: Acting President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Present were Acting President Wasko, Members Chen, Nielsen, Franz, Villareal, and Soglin along with staff members Jones and Brown.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES : The minutes of the May 24, 2007, meeting were approved with noted changes. (M/S Franz, Soglin) and unanimous.

3-A. PRESENTATION BY THE FRIENDS OF WUXI, CHINA: Member Chen introduced Ms. Nancy Li, and Mr. Robert Jue representing the Friends of Wuxi group along with Mr. Fay Louie. Mr. Louie provided translation and the first topic of discussion was to ask the City to participate in an annual China flag raising.

Mr. Louie continued and stated the sister city of Oakland has participated in the past seven years and the Consul General is usually in attendance. The flag raising in Oakland is to promote Chinese culture and support. The Consul General will be present in Oakland on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There is usually a fund raising dinner either before or after the event, however, each city is different.

The Friends of Wuxi completes all planning and related activities for this event including the dinner and entertainment with lion dancers and martial arts. The city of Oakland does not fund the event.

Member Chen – What is the significance of the flag raising? Mr. Louie stated that many other cities in the bay area participate, San Jose, Sacramento, San Francisco, Pacifica and Oakland to celebrate Chinese Independence Day, and to bring the communities together.

Member Chen – Has there been any problems or issues with demonstrations? Mr. Louie stated there have been no problems with demonstrations for the flag raising in Oakland.

Member Franz – Is it possible for members of this City to join in Oakland's ceremony this year? Mr. Louie stated that was a great introduction for the city of Alameda to participate in Oakland's ceremony this year as a starting point.

The Board further discussed was there enough time for Alameda to process the request and then have a proper ceremony. Acting President Wasko stated this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Chinese heritage. The Board would like to ensure enough time for proper public outreach so that the event could engage all of the community for a proper celebration of Chinese culture.

Non action item. The Board requested to set a special meeting in the upcoming weeks.

Ms. Nancy Li spoke through translation of Mr. Robert Jue on the planned trip to China with the Friendship City Committee. The planned trip is tentatively scheduled for the end of October. They verbally provided the following itinerary; Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> depart SFO to Beijing, China; arrive in Beijing on October 23, stay four nights and 3 days; October 27, a.m. travel to Shanghai, then travel by bus to Wuxi for the two days in Wuxi; Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> return to SFO from Shanghai, China. Wuxi officials have

agreed to a total of 20 people, which is 6 more than the original plan. All fees are paid and included in the \$1,200. per person. If more than 20 people go, those extra people are responsible for any extra costs.

Member Chen asked when is the deadline for those who want to attend? Mr. Jue stated as soon as possible. It was also mentioned timing to get Visas being an issue. It was also stated that Visa fees will be increasing soon.

Mr. Jue further stated Wuxi officials would like to know by September 10<sup>th</sup> for writing the program. Mr. Jue reported the Vice Mayor of Wuxi will be the tour provider and there will be a few government functions while in Wuxi although no formal activities are planned for Shanghai. The time frame will be in conjunction with the Wuxi International Friendship City celebration that may include 10-20 other cities.

Member Franz stated the time frame of this trip may not allow him the time to go to China.

Member Chen reported there are plans for a Sister City workgroup in the near future to include the Mayor and Council Member Matarrese.

3-B. BUDGET REVIEW FOR FY2007-08: Acting President reported on a discussion with staff. This discussion included staff time hours, volunteers and volunteer hours, outreach materials and what kind of funds do we have to make all the projects happen and future planning. Staff member Jones explains the budget spreadsheet.

Member Franz – How is staff time in relation to last year's numbers. He further asked about the prices for outreach materials and mentioned the use of Alameda vendors. Jones explained the 'staff time' is not an item that carries forward every year. Staff time always exceeds the \$20,000, she further mentioned all quotes from vendors are Alameda businesses.

Member Soglin – Is the discretionary about the \$8,600? Jones, yes. All the projects funds.

Member Franz – Is the \$5k a set figure, and how many of each outreach piece? Jones, yes that is for the resource guides (10-15k) and the magnets (5k).

Member Chen – Is the \$20k for staff costs a fixed number? Jones, yes.

Member Nielsen – How much money was donated from Festival of Families? Wasko explained that sponsored tables were charged a fee to be there, and this is a remaining fund from two years running.

Acting President Wasko reminded the Board that funds this year were discussed for the Resource Guide and magnets. Jones passed out drafts of each. The dissemination will include the ARPD Activity Guide for fall, and the County will send out with checks.

Member Franz – Are we able to look at / for sponsors to cover costs? Jones, yes, this was discussed for this item. Any monetary sponsorships could be used for community outreach.

Member Nielsen – What about other priorities such as ATAH outreach? Acting President Wasko stated that this is why we are discussing this, and how projects need to be planned in advance.

Member Nielsen - How does this budget works with the swipe card planning? Jones explained funding for the swipe card system was provided through Community Development Block Grant funding, not through the Board's budget.

**3-C. JOINT WORK SESSION WITH ACCYF:** Acting President Wasko reported she attended to the bi-monthly Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and Their Families Co-Chair meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>, with Staff member Jones. She reported that during the co-chairs meeting it was agreed to set a night work session meeting on Thursday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at the Alameda Free Library. It was agreed to ask Dr. Tony Iton to provide a presentation on health care issues and to invite County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker. The work session will also include discussion on low income dental care. Member Nielsen suggested extending special invitations to key community members. Further discussion suggested an invitation to the press for media coverage.

**3-D. JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> PARADE:** Acting President Wasko mentioned the trolley riders ran out of balloons and ribbon. She reported that everyone had a good time and that the parade ended earlier this year. Additionally she explained that Ms. Nancy Li made and brought a Sister City banner for the trolley.

Member Franz stated that next year the Board should think about placement and partnerships within the parade, perhaps having similar organizations displaying ATAH banners throughout the parade.

**3-E. WORK GROUP STATUS REPORTS:**

*Assessment and Awareness Workgroup* – Member Franz reported he had met with the Disaster Council (DC) for public safety issues. The DC has trained all members and is currently training others in the Coast Guard and AUSD along with assisting in training families. The DC is working to make sure the families who cannot afford disaster kits get them at a very low cost. There will be a mock disaster drill at Washington Elementary School on an upcoming Saturday a.m., and included will be live translators for Chinese, and Spanish. They currently have 5,000 youth trained and are working on youth peer training for all students.

*Alamedans Together Against Hate* – Member Villareal reported that the meeting with Kerry Compton, of the College of Alameda (COA) was good. The (COA) is planning a number of events around diversity and they are willing to partner with ATAH to promote tolerance and more education. Ideas include forming a townhall meeting with a panel on a specific topic. He further reported they are brainstorming to find community speakers. Member Soglin mentioned that COA had the funds and facilities and the energy to make things happen, along with media tie-ins to help promote. The next ATAH meeting is August 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Family Services Workgroup* – Acting President Wasko reported on the Health Care forum with Alameda County Board of Supervisor Alice Lia-Bitker and Dr. Tony Iton. The forum provided various ways of looking at resources and healthcare. The city of Alameda will be the focus of the next meeting. The County is busy crunching data for upcoming meetings.

Member Nielsen reported on the low-income dental program, and the needs for community. Alameda has only two representative dentists for the County program. The message of prevention is key and healthy kids equals healthy teeth. She further stated that Alameda Dr. Perry sponsors a free “Give Kids a Smile”, program. The process for referrals is that if the referral comes from a physician as dental problems, the patient can be served under MediCal. Also with the Dental Assistant training at COA, all students are required to give 40 hours of community service. There is a sealant program in south Alameda County and there is outreach for getting people involved and aware.

*Sister City Workgroup* – Member Chen provided a “save the date” flyer from the City of Pacifica who are hosting a Norcal Sister Cities International Conference on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Staff member Jones reminded the Board that the Board has one vacant position. The Alameda Hospital Fair is Saturday, October 20.

5. ADJOURNMENT: Acting President Wasko adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Jones  
Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

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